

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

One of the multimedia information devices connected to a network is set as a master, which generates and manages an integrated directory list (41) for all files in the network. In order to implement a function of the master described above, each of the devices has programs (31 – 34) for keeping and
5 synchronizing the integrated directory list (41) and a program (37) for retrieving and displaying. Moreover, there is provided a program (35) for master/slave switching control so as to select an optimal master when withdrawal of the master from the network or connection of a new device
10 occurs. In this way, it is possible to provide unitary management of files kept by the multimedia information devices connected to a home network at a low cost and without imposing a load to the network.